NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release May 2, 2006

Contact: Claudia Nakano (801) 538-8805 Communications Director Utah Department of Community and Culture

Be Ready Utah Campaign Branches Out to Ready Your School

Salt Lake City, Utah – "Ready Your School" is part of the new "Be Ready Utah" campaign launched on April 6 by Lt. Governor Gary R. Herbert and sponsored by Utah Citizen Corps, a program of the Utah Commission on Volunteers (COV) and the Utah Department of Public Safety. "Be Ready Utah" is a statewide emergency preparedness campaign for families, communities, schools and businesses. "Schools house our children seven hours a day. They are communities within our communities. They need to plan and prepare with their entire communities to respond effectively to a large scale emergency or disaster," noted Kathy Hyde, Executive Director of COV.

To commemorate National Youth Service Month, Becky Brown of the Utah Federation for Youth, and Alan Griffin of the Utah State Office of Education, recently joined forces with Stephanie Brown, Youth Service Ambassador for the Utah Commission on Volunteers, to promote a disaster preparedness project called "Ready Your School."

The "Ready Your School" campaign began its yearlong project with the delivery of a disaster preparedness kit from the Utah Citizen Corps Council, the Utah Federation of Youth, and the State Office of Education, to every school district superintendent and public school in Utah. Each kit contained information and instructions encouraging the schools to become better prepared for disasters, a description of individual emergency kits for elementary school children, DVD's depicting ways to cope in various disaster scenarios, stickers, posters and a "Resources for Disaster Preparedness" CD. Kits were sent to 896 schools in Utah and included letters of support from the Lieutenant Governor and the State Office of Education encouraging participation in National Youth Service Month and the "Ready Your School" campaign.

###